

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A content output apparatus that outputs any one of N contents (N: 2 or any larger integer) individually transmitted through N channels registered in a predetermined order, the content output apparatus comprising:
 - 5 a writing means for respectively writing M contents (M: an arbitrary integer that is 2 or larger and N or smaller) transmitted through M channels that exist in a predetermined order and include a desired channel into M buffer memories;
 - a reading means for reading a content transmitted through said desired channel from any one of said M buffer memories; and
- 10 an accepting means for accepting changes of said desired channel in said predetermined order.
2. A content output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said writing means includes an updating means for updating any one of said M buffer memories in response to the change of said desired channel.
- 15 3. A content output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a holding means for holding a table in which said N channels are registered in said predetermined sequence; and
 - a specifying means for specifying said M channels by reference to said table held by said holding means.
- 20 4. A content output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said contents are steaming contents transmitted in real time.
5. A content output control program to be executed by a content output apparatus that outputs any one of N contents (N: 2 or any larger integer) individually transmitted through N channels registered in a predetermined order, the content output control program comprising:

- a writing step of respectively writing M contents (M: an arbitrary integer that is 2 or larger and N or smaller) transmitted through M channels that exist in a predetermined order and include a desired channel into M buffer memories;
- 5 a reading step of reading a content transmitted through said desired channel from any one of said M buffer memories; and
- an accepting step of accepting changes of said desired channel in said predetermined order.
- 10 6. A content output control method to be practiced by a content output apparatus that outputs any one of N contents (N: 2 or any larger integer) individually transmitted through N channels registered in a predetermined sequence, the content output control method comprising:
- a writing step of respectively writing M contents (M: an arbitrary integer that is 2 or larger and N or smaller) transmitted through M channels that exist in a predetermined order and include a desired channel into M buffer memories;
- 15 a reading step of reading a content transmitted through said desired channel from any one of said M buffer memories; and
- an accepting step of accepting changes of said desired channel in said predetermined order.
- 20 7. A content output control method according to claim 6, wherein said reading step includes a changing step of, when the change of said desired channel is accepted in said accepting step, changing a buffer memory from which a content is to be read.
8. A content output control method according to claim 6, wherein said writing step includes a replacing step of, when the change of said desired channel is accepted in said accepting step, replacing any one of said M channels with any one of channels that are included in said N channels and are not included in said M channels.